

The  
Early Years Count  
**Literacy**  
Connection



## The Ring Bearer

Written and illustrated by  
Floyd Cooper

*Preschool edition*

### Overview of Book

So many new changes in Jackson's life! Mom and Bill are getting married and now Jackson will have a new sister and a new family. He loves everyone, but is nervous because he has a very important job to do. Jackson is in charge of the rings! What if he loses them or trips?

Genre: Realistic fiction

### Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *The Ring Bearer* to introduce in your classroom:

bearer	droopy
worried	practice
aisle	steady
nervous	

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

### Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

*COR Advantage 1.5*

Social and Emotional  
Development  
Item D (*Emotions*)

Mathematics  
Item U (*Measurement*)

Creative Arts  
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

Social Studies  
Item FF (*Knowledge of self  
and others*)

### Reading Tips

While reading, ask the children about their feelings at various parts in the story. Have any of the children had such a responsibility? Were they worried about it? Who helped them when they were worried?"

Use your tone of voice and body language to help reveal the feelings in the story. Jackson is at first thoughtful, worried and scared he'll drop or lose the rings. At the end, the family is relieved and happy when Jackson saves Sophie. Then Jackson and Sophie proudly finish their task and the wedding is a success.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

### **Throughout the Routine**

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

During **Small Group Time**, use a variety of objects as measurement tools to measure “aisles.” Collect and review the “data.”

Play an easy-to-join game for the start of **Large Group Time** by having children pretend to walk with the rings and not drop them. Place “obstacles” on the floor for children to walk over or around. Don’t drop the rings!

**Transition** children by having them pretend to “walk down the aisle.”

### **Around the Room**

Highlight the book’s content and build on the children’s excitement in a variety of locations.

Put fancy dress-up clothes for wedding pretend play in the **House Area**.

Display photographs of weddings from around the world for children to see the similarities and differences.

Provide wedding stories from other cultures and perspectives in the **Book Area** for the children to read and compare, such as *Uncle Peter’s Amazing Chinese Wedding* by Lenore Look and *Here Comes Our Bride* by Ifeoma Onyefulu.

### **Open-ended Questions**

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one “right” answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *The Ring Bearer*:

How else could you take part in a wedding?

How did it make you feel when Sophie tripped?

What did you think when Jackson caught Sophie?

If you have ever been to a wedding, what was your favorite part?

*For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact **The Family Connection:***

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### **@ Home**

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *The Ring Bearer* with their children. Here’s a sample message you can send:

*The Ring Bearer* is a story about a child’s role in a very special wedding. His mother and Bill are getting married and soon Jackson will become part of a blended family. Reading this book with your child offers lots of possibilities to discuss various aspects of family life, such as being worried, taking on responsibilities, or being a big brother or sister. The book also opens the door to talking about family weddings your child may have attended or participated in or upcoming weddings that your child can look forward to. Is there a special role your child can play in a future celebration?